

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
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P 211510Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5190
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, CZ
SUBJECT: WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE

1. SUMMARY: FROM ALL REPORTS, THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE NINTH WFTU
CONGRESS, STILL IN PROGRESS, HAS BEEN THE QUESTION OF CONTINUED
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FRENCH CGT AFFILIATION. DUE TO CONTINUING STRAINS OVER RIGID
PRO-SOVIET ORIENTATION OF THE WFTU, CGT REPS WILL WITHDRAW FROM
WFTU SECRETARIAT BUT REMAIN IN THE OVERALL ORGANIZATION AT LEAST FOR
THE NEXT YEAR, HOPING TO LOOSEN MOSCOW'S CONTROLS. GENSOUS IS
SUPPOSED TO BE REPLACED BY PASTORINO, AND PASTORINO BY GASPAR.
MEETING HAS BEEN LESS THAN OPEN, WITH ONE RIAS REPORTER BOOTED
OUT, AND THREE CHECK-POINTS CONTROLLING ACCESS TO THE HALL. FINAL

DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED OVER THE WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

2. CGT-AS HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS, CGT GENERAL SECRETARY GEORGES SEGUY ADDRESSED WFTU CONGRESS APRIL 17. WE DO NOT HAVE TEXT OF HIS LEECH, BUT HE AND OTHER OF HIS COMPATRIOTS CALLED ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR D'HARCOURT APRIL 20 TO EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION. AS IS KNOWN, THE CGT IS LESSENING ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE WFTU BY PULLING OUT OF THE SECRETARIAT, MOST SIGNIFICANTLY BY RECALLING PIERRE GENSOUS, HERETOFORE GENERAL SECRETARY. CGT LEADERS STILL SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE PRESSING FOR "DEMOCRATIZATION" OF THE WFTU, BUT COMPLAIN THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN DOING THIS UNOFFICIALLY FOR SOME TIME WITHOUT ANY PERCEPTIBLE RESULT.

AT THIS CONGRESS, THEY HAVE DECIDED TO AIR THEIR COMPLAINTS IN MORE CONCRETE FASHION. SEGUY REPORTEDLY TOLD THE CONGRESS THAT THE CGT WAS RELINQUISHING THE GENERAL SECRETARYSHIP BECAUSE, AS A "MINORITY" FACTION WITHIN THE WFTU, CGT MEMBERS "OFTEN DISAGREED/ WITH "SOCIALIST BROTHERS." UNDER THESE CONDITIONS IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE CGT TO TAKE A LARGE PART IN GOVERNANCE OF THE WFTU. REPORTEDLY CGT REPS COMPLAINED TO CZECHOSLOVAKS ABOUT HARSH TREATMENT OF CHARTER 77 ADVOCATES DURING THE WEEK. THEY HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY SERVED NOTICE ON THE WFTU LEADERSHIP THAT THEIR WITHDRSWAL FROM THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A COMPLETE PULL-OUT WITHIN ONE YEAR IF THERE IS NO RELAXATION OF CURRENT CONTROLS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. THEY APPARENTLY FEEL THIS POSITION GIVES THEM SOME LEVERAGE AND FLEXIBILITY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. CGIL-WE DO NOT HAVE THE NAMES OF THE ITALIAN CGIL REPS WHO ATTENDED THE CONGRESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ANNOUNCED CGIL'S DEPARTURE FROM WFTU BY CIRCULATING A STATEMENT WHICH EXPLAINED THAT, SINCE THE WFTU HAD NOT SEEN FIT TO REVEAL THE CGIL'S DEPARTURE, IT HAD BECOME NECESSARY TO COME TO THE CONGRESS TO INFORM OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT, AS OF MARCH 16, THE CGIL WAS DISAFFILIATING ITSELF. SINCE THE CGIL DEFECTION WAS ALREADY KNOWN BY ALL, THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSED LITTLE EXCITEMENT.

4. RIAS CORRESPONDENT DIETER HEIBEL, A CORRESPONDENT FOR RIAS OF BERLIN WAS BOOTED OUT OF THE WFTU CONGRESS EARLY THIS WEEK AFTER HAVING RECEIVED ACCREDITATION THROUGH THE OFFICES OF PIERRE GENSOUS. THE FRG EMBASSY HERE PROTESTED TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK MFA, WHO REFERRED THE MATTER TO THE WFTU. BORIS AVERYANOV, AFTER SOME BACKING AND FILLING, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HEIBEL HAD BEEN ACCREDITED BY MISTAKE, AT WHICH POINT FRG EMBASSY TOLD HIM THERE WOULD BE REPERCUSSIONS ON FRG'S HERETOFORE LIBERAL POLICY WITH RESPECT TO VISAS FOR WFTU PERSONNEL VISITING AND TRANSITING THE FRG. COMMENT: IT LOOKS AS IF BORIS GOT A BLACK EYE ON THIS ROUND. END COMMENT.

5. EXPECTED PERSONNEL CHANGES WILL PRESUMABLY NOT BE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED UNTIL LATE APRIL 22 OR APRIL 23, AFTER MANDATE COMMISSION HAS FINISHED DELIBERATIONS. IN ADDITION TO REPLACEMENT OF PIERRE GENSOUS BY ENRIQUE PASTORINO AS WFTU GENERAL SECRETARY, WE HAVE HEARD THAT GASPAR WILL TAKE OVER FROM PASTORINO AS WFTU PRESIDENT. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS DEFINITELY.

6. NINTH WFTU CONGRESS IS A HIGHLY DISORGANIZED AFFAIR, ACCORDING TO LOCAL AP STRINGER. THERE IS NO PUBLIC LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO IS AN OFFICIAL DELEGATE AND WHO AN OBSERVER. WORSE, THERE IS NO PUBLISHED AGENDA, SO REPORTERS MUST SIT THROUGH ALL THE MONOTONOUS SPEECHES IN HOPES OF BEING PRESENT FOR SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY. PRESS CONFERENCES HAVE NOT ALL BEEN ANNOUNCED AHEAD OF TIME, AND JOURNALISTS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE INSIDE TRACK ON OBTAINING COPIES OF SPEECHES, WHICH FREQUENTLY AVAILABLE ONLY IN ARABIC. AP STRINGER'S IMPRESSION IS THAT MUCH IS SAID WHICH SPEAKERS REFUSE TO CONFIRM AFTER THE FACT; AN EXAMPLE WAS ONE AFRICAN SPEAKER WHO CHARGED THAT ATOMIC WEAPONS WERE BEING TESTED IN KATANGA PROVINCE. PRESSED TO CONFIRM THIS CHARGE, SPEAKER BACKED DOWN. FOOD IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE MEAL TICKETS, DISTRUBUTED THROUGH SOME HIDDEN PROCESS ONLY TO SOME OF THE JOURNALISTS.

7. DECONTROL AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.
BYRNE

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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